



HEAT WAVE: Hot enough for you? It's gonna get much worse

By [ANNE MILLERBERND](#)

2016-06-03 06:39:41



The heat arrived in Inland Southern California briefly on Thursday but was expected to rise further today and Saturday.

Riverside's high temperature on Thursday was 97 degrees, according to the National Weather Service. A temperature as high as 108 is expected today and 106 on Saturday, according to the weather service.

The high-pressure system responsible for the excessive heat is expected to leave on Sunday, dropping temperatures into the 90s. By Monday, the area will be back in the 80s.

The weather service and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health have issued heat advisories for the Inland area. The weather service advised people to postpone outdoor work if possible, or wear lightweight clothing and have plenty of water on hand if time will be spent outdoors.

FAMILY: [8 Inland Empire area water parks where you can beat the heat](#)

The health department said in a news release that those most vulnerable to the heat are the elderly, children and infants, those with chronic health conditions and those who work outside.

Just south of Temecula in northern San Diego County, crews finished the hot job of digging fire lines around 85 percent of a 3-day-old wildfire that blackened 45 acres near Pala.

The fire had started at about 1:50 p.m. Tuesday at a home in the 38800 block of Pala Temecula way and spread into dense brush.

Inland residents aren't strangers to hundred-degree temperatures, but the forecast is for temperatures 15 to 20 degrees above the average for early June, weather service meteorologists said.

Western re-enactment performers Abigail Hawks and her fiancé, Luke Short, are going up to Oro Grande, east of Adelanto in the High Desert, for an event over the weekend. Back in the 1800s, people tried to protect themselves from the sun with conservative clothing to maintain their pale skin.

Avoiding a tan might not be Hawks' priority this weekend, though.

"I don't know, I might be going with a little shorter-sleeved outfit," she said. Short might avoid the petticoat that makes up part of his costume.

The two have lived in the area all their lives and said that temperatures didn't typically get much higher than what is predicted for the weekend.

Still, they said, it could be worse.

"At least we get a breeze here," Hawkins said. "Arizona is much worse."

Kami Acosta and Kathy Wilder were out walking in downtown Riverside on Thursday. The two take morning and afternoon walks outside the building where they work.

For the most part, warm weather doesn't get to them, but Upland resident Wilder said she might skip the afternoon walk to avoid the extreme heat.

"It's a dry heat. It doesn't appear to be humid," she said.

"And so it's bearable," Acosta added.

The high temperatures will contrast with nighttime lows in the high 50s and low 60s, according to the weather service.

Coastal regions are protected by the marine layer and won't have it so hot.

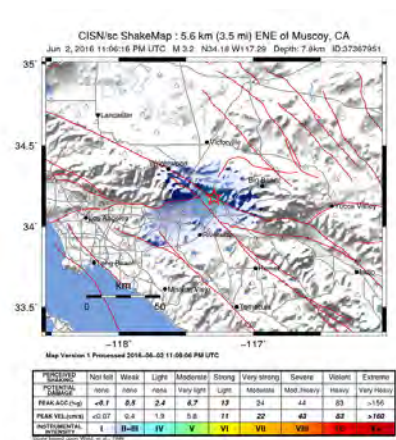
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SAN BERNARDINO: Magnitude 3.2 quake rattles area

By [RICHARD BROOKS](#)
2016-06-02 17:03:22



A weak afternoon earthquake rattled northern San Bernadino and surrounding areas, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The magnitude 3.2 quake struck at 4:06 p.m. Thursday, June 2, in the city's Northpark neighborhood, roughly 1-1/2 miles east of Cal State San Bernardino, according to geographical coordinates provided by the federal agency.

The area is nearly 4 miles north of central San Bernardino, the same distance northeast of Muscoy, and slightly more than four miles south of the mountaintop town of Crestline.

Quakes that mild are incapable of causing any significant damage, according to USGS.

However, the shaking was sufficient to be felt in the western San Bernardino Mountains and northwestern Riverside County, a USFS map

shows.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Hillary Clinton to visit Cal State San Bernardino on Friday

By Beau Yarbrough, The Sun

Thursday, June 2, 2016



Hillary Clinton will be on campus at Cal State San Bernardino this evening to spend some time with San Bernardino-area residents.

The former secretary of state and Democratic presidential candidate will be speaking on campus during her second visit to the Inland Empire in as many days. It's the latest iteration of a phenomenon Californians are unused to: having a presidential primary that matters.

Clinton was at an evening meeting Thursday at Casa Jimenez Mexican restaurant in Perris.

[She spoke at UC Riverside on May 24](#), [hours after Democratic rival Bernie Sanders](#) did so. Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, [spoke in Pomona the weekend before](#), and [Sanders spoke there](#), at the same high school, on May 26.

This is all symptomatic of a Democratic presidential primary process continuing on to practically the very last primaries on June 7, when [California and five other states cast their votes](#). (The District of Columbia holds the last Democratic Party primary, on June 14.)

[Clinton has 1,770 pledged delegates to Sanders' 1,500](#). Clinton also has many more superdelegates — party officials and elected officials [like Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-San Bernardino](#). Clinton has 543 superdelegates, while Sanders has 43. Democratic primary candidates need 2,293 delegates to win the nomination. [Clinton leads Sanders by about 2.9 million votes](#) cast during the 2016 primary season so far.

[Clinton is scheduled to speak](#) at 6 p.m. at CSUSB's Coyote Den Gymnasium, 5500 University Parkway. Doors open to the public at 4 p.m.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20160602/hillary-clinton-to-visit-cal-state-san-bernardino-on-friday>

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Six months after San Bernardino shooting, healing — but not healed

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

Thursday, June 2, 2016



The fear and anxiety that lingered in the wake of the mass shooting at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino have abated, little by little, in the past six months, say some who witnessed the aftermath.

Business has long since resumed, and employees are returning to some of their habits, like taking walks around the block.

But all around them are constant reminders of the events of Dec. 2, when 14 people were killed and 22 injured in a shooting that the FBI soon declared the deadliest terrorist strike

on U.S. soil since 9/11.

“Six months later my heart is so broken and I no longer look at life the same,” wrote Diane Hernandez, a consumer services coordinator at the IRC, whose office also overlooks the conference center where the shooting occurred, in an email.

“I think about the victims everyday and the helplessness I felt not being able to do anything but hide that day.”

On Thursday, the six-month anniversary of the attack, a bevy of shuttle buses lined Park Center Circle. Employee vehicles packed the parking lot. It was business as usual.

While many directly affected by the IRC tragedy spent Thursday reflecting quietly or observing in their own way, others took part in public commemorations.

Claudia Strauss of Claremont was moved to join others in publicly remembering the six-month anniversary by “the idea that in commemoration, our response not be a hateful one.”

She joined about 20 others behind the Coffee Klatch coffeehouse on Foothill Boulevard in Rancho Cucamonga.

Strauss — carrying a sign that said, “Hate will not make us safe” — said the attitude isn’t just a moral principle, it’s also pragmatic. To respond in a way that would stigmatize any particular group would increase terrorism and not protect our country, she said.

The same group that organized the coffeehouse gathering planned to hold a candlelight vigil at 9:45 p.m. at the IRC.

‘A lot of grief’ at the IRC

Outside the IRC, now a fortified complex where only employees can enter and exit, miniature American flags, white ribbons and wood-carved stars placed by members of the disaster-relief nonprofit Stars of Hope remain affixed to the chain link fence surrounding the three-building complex at 1365 S. Waterman Ave.

A row of glass-encased novena candles lines the top of the center’s monument sign near the sidewalk outside the conference center where the mass shooting occurred.

A chain-link fence covered in green mesh still encloses a portion of the parking lot where some of the victims were shot and where others fled when Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, stormed the center and, armed with assault rifles, carried out their massacre.

“The FBI is having them keep it enclosed because it is still an active crime scene,” said Sandra A. Wood, interim executive director of Inland Empire Lighthouse for the Blind, across the street from the IRC.

Wood’s upstairs office overlooks the parking lot where pandemonium erupted Dec. 2. She is reminded of the tragedy every day.

“There’s a lot of grief associated with that address right there,” Wood said. “Once in awhile I’ll pause and think about it.”

Wood on Thursday stood at the window in her office, reflecting on that day and what has transpired since.

“It’s sad to see it, to be living with it every day, but you become accustomed to it. You say a prayer once in awhile,” she said. “It would be nice to see that area turned back to a little bit of normalcy, to get rid of the fencing and have the property look like it used to. I’m not sure what they can do with that building.”

San Bernardino attorney and IRC general counsel Steven K. Beckett did not return a phone call Thursday seeking comment.

Witness to a massacre

Wood recounted her experiences the day of the shooting. She said she had just finished talking to one of her drivers, who had left the office and begun walking downstairs, when she heard a rapid succession of gunshots outside.

“I got out from behind my desk, got away from the window, went to the side of my desk and called 911 right away,” Wood said. “It was obvious it was an automatic weapon, because it was rapid-fire.”

The police dispatcher, Wood said, told her calls had just started flooding the dispatch center, and help was on its way.

“So I hung up, got on the intercom system and told everyone in the building to stay calm, that there was something going on outside, and to lock their classroom doors,” Wood said. “And the whole day unfolded after that.”

As dozens of people streamed out of the IRC during the attack, they took cover behind parked vehicles. A few ran across the street and ducked behind vehicles parked in front of Lighthouse for the Blind, Wood

said.

“So I opened the door and I said, ‘Do you need help?’ And three of the guys came in our lobby and stayed with us awhile,” Wood said. “One of the guys had fallen down from running, and so we helped him with a first aid kit.”

Wood later learned from the driver she had spoken to moments before the shooting that when he exited Lighthouse for the Blind and approached his vehicle, he saw someone dressed all in black, clutching an assault rifle and shooting at people while walking into the IRC.

Detectives later told Wood and her driver that the shooter observed was likely Malik, Wood said.

6 months later, ‘a lot of mixed emotions’

On Thursday, a group of IRC employees wearing name badges pinned to their waistbands or hanging from lanyards around their necks took a casual stroll on the sidewalk encircling the complex.

“Most of the employees are back to work,” Wood said. “People are starting to take their walks, like we always have, a couple of times a day. We always take walks around the facility.”

When asked how she deals with the traumatic event when the IRC parking lot is just a glance out her office window away, Wood said she just has to force herself to deal with it.

“It’s a lot of mixed emotions. Sometimes it hits me hard, and I relive the moment,” said Wood. “That’s a stark reality, of how close it was to our school and our students here that we serve. It’s 200 feet away.”

Wood said about 65 students were at Lighthouse for the Blind, a nonprofit adult school for the blind, when the shooting occurred.

Most of the victims killed or wounded in the shooting were employees of San Bernardino County’s Environmental Health Services Division who were attending a training seminar in the conference center the day of the shooting. They were targeted by Farook, himself a health inspector for the county.

Farook and Malik were killed in a shootout with police hours after the attack. In the aftermath of the shooting, the county adopted the motto “SBstrong.”

“For the County family, the pain of the Dec. 2 attack is still fresh, indeed we are all changed forever. But we take inspiration from those who are persevering through so much pain to carry on,” county Supervisor Robert Lovingood said Thursday.

Supervisor Curt Hagman said in an email Thursday the IRC tragedy changed the “county family forever.”

“It has been 6 months since that day and our county will continue to rebuild, we will continue to support the families who lost loved ones, and we will continue to serve the people of this county with the best of our ability,” Hagman said. “No terrorist will stand in the way of that; and I pray that we forever hold dear the words, ‘SB Strong’ in our thoughts and actions.”

Staff writers John M. Blodgett and Michel Nolan contributed to this report.

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

Dec. 2 terror attack prompts remembrance in Rancho Cucamonga on 6-month anniversary

By John M. Blodgett, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Thursday, June 2, 2016



RANCHO CUCAMONGA >> Claudia Strauss of Claremont was moved to join others in publicly remembering the six-month anniversary of the [San Bernardino terror attack](#) Thursday with “the idea that in commemoration, our response not be a hateful one.”

She joined about 20 others behind the Coffee Klatch coffeehouse on Foothill Boulevard at 5 p.m. for the first of a two-part event that would culminate later in the evening in San Bernardino.

Strauss — carrying a sign that said, “Hate will not make us safe” — said the attitude isn’t just a moral principle, it’s pragmatic. To respond in a way that would stigmatize any particular group would increase terrorism and not protect our country, she said.

Dennis Michael, mayor of Rancho Cucamonga, attended and told the gathering: “We need to do what we need to do to be strong,” pausing briefly as he choked on tears.

“We need to pull together to show our resilience,” Michael said before his public remarks. “I’m here to show we care, we stand with the rest of the county and we will never forget Dec. 2.”

The nonprofit [UPWARD](#) — the acronym stands for Uniting Peace with Actions, Respect and Dignity — organized the two events to celebrate life, love and peace, said cofounder Gustavo Ramirez.

In addition to the mayor, the gathering featured musicians and an opening statement by the Rev. Ignacio Castuera, former pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Pomona.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20160602/dec-2-terror-attack-prompts-remembrance-in-rancho-cucamonga-on-6-month-anniversary>

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Claim against San Bernardino says Dec. 2 shooting witness suffered 'psychological injuries'

By Aaron Claverie, The Press-Enterprise

and Ryan Hagen, The Sun

Thursday, June 2, 2016



A business management firm has filed a claim against the city of San Bernardino on behalf of a witness to the Dec. 2 massacre, who says he suffered “psychological injuries” due to the city’s negligence in preventing and responding to the mass shooting.

The firm, Barrett Business Services, filed the claim after the witness, Kevin Thurston, submitted a workers’ compensation claim. The claim is for approximately \$10,000 in costs so far, as well as \$15,000 in estimated future costs.

The claim is dated June 1, the day before the deadline to seek compensation for damages suffered during the attack. If a claim is rejected by a city or county, the claimant then has six months to file a lawsuit.

A radicalized Muslim couple, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, stormed the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino on Dec. 2 and opened fire on a gathering of Farook’s co-workers from the county’s Department of Environmental Health. They were in a conference room that had been rented from the IRC, a nonprofit agency that helps people with developmental disabilities.

Farook and Malik were killed in a shootout with police a few hours later.

“The City of San Bernardino was negligent in preventing and responding to a terrorist attack, causing ... Thurston, who was working in proximity to the attack at the time, psychological injuries arising from the distress of witnessing the attack,” the firm wrote in the claim, explaining why it contends the city is at fault.

At least five other people filed claims against the city of San Bernardino. The others were seeking reimbursement for damage done when San Bernardino police and other law enforcement fired 380 rounds Farook and Malik in a shoot-out on San Bernardino Avenue, killing the terrorists but also damaging property.

The City Council voted 5-2 to deny those claims, which totaled more than \$13,000, saying the claimants did not prove the city was liable.

Additionally, at least 15 others have filed claims worth tens of millions of dollars against San Bernardino County.

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Friday, June 3, 2016

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Insurer Handling San Bernardino Attack Claims Seeks \$4.5M From County

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The company that provided workers' compensation insurance for Inland Regional Center, the site of the San Bernardino mass terror shooting in December, is seeking more than \$4.5 million from the county for negligence and says it has spent more than \$23,000 on claims so far, The Press-Enterprise reports.



Syed Rizwan Farook

Republic Indemnity Co. of California accuses San Bernardino County of failing to anticipate a security threat from county health department employee Syed Rizwan Farook, who, along with his wife, Tashfeen Malik, fatally shot 14 people and wounded 22 others at a departmental training event and holiday party on Dec. 2.

"Claimant is further informed and believes that the County of San Bernardino knew, or should have known, that its employee, Syed Rizwan Farook, had engaged in adversarial and argumentative conduct with his co-employees, and as such, posed a reasonably foreseeable danger to those persons in close proximity to the holiday party," the claim states.

Republic Indemnity also alleges the county failed to perform an adequate background check on Farook or provide sufficient security at the holiday party.

The company says it has spent more than \$23,000 on the workers' comp claims of five IRC employees so far, and expects to spend more.

Thursday was the last day to file claims associated with the San Bernardino attacks. Two others — Mark Sandefur, who seeks more than \$5.5 million in damages related to the loss of his nephew, and Kevin Ortiz, who seeks more than \$150,000 after being shot multiple times in the attack — had put in their claims with the county as of Wednesday.

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By [Kevin Trudgeon](#)[Print Page](#)

June 02, 2016 1:37PM

Officer-involved shooting of Apple Valley man in 2015 deemed 'legally justified'

SAN BERNARDINO — The officer-involved shooting that resulted in the death of an Apple Valley man last year has been deemed "legally justified" by the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office, according to a statement released Thursday.

[Francis Murphy Rose III, 42, was killed in a shootout near his home in an unincorporated county area near Apple Valley in February 2015](#), after sheriff's deputies responded to 911 calls of shots fired in the 9000 block of Buena Vista Street.

According to a previous Daily Press report, when deputies arrived, authorities said Rose began shooting at the deputies, as well as sheriff's helicopter 40 King that was circling above the scene. Rose was then shot by a deputy on the ground.

An autopsy performed on Rose by Riverside County Coroner's Office found five principal gunshot wounds that were listed as the cause of death and toxicology reports revealed that Rose had a blood-alcohol level of more than .22 and numerous drugs in his system, including ones used to treat bipolar disorder.

According to the investigation report provided by the District Attorney's Office, deputies tried "to make contact with Rose when they were told that he was unarmed," but when he was ordered to show his hands he retreated back into his residence and began shooting.

"Once Rose initiated the gun battle, the deputies involved had the legal right to engage Rose in lawful self-defense and defense of others. The deputies returned fire only when they were fired upon," the investigation report stated.

A former California Highway Patrol officer who worked out of the Barstow Station from the fall of 2009 to March 2013, [Rose was described by his friends as a "good and kind" person who was "going through hard times" trying to escape a rough life.](#)

"I've known Murphy Rose most of his life and am in tears that this has happened," Diana Schmidt, a close friend, previously told the Daily Press. "He was a highway patrol officer who saw his partner killed in front of him. Some of the things he saw and (dealt) with (left) him (with post-traumatic stress disorder). Sadly this was suicide by cop. He was not a thug or a bad person (but) chose a sad way to end his pain."

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160602/NEWS/160609939>[Print Page](#)

By Paola Baker

Print Page

June 02, 2016 6:22PM

Attorneys: Witnesses to deputy-involved shooting 'intimidated, harassed'

VICTORVILLE — Attorneys representing the family of a Barstow man fatally shot by San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deputies last fall claim witnesses were intimidated and harassed by investigators.

Attorneys Sharon Brunner and Jim Terrell held a press conference Thursday in which witness statements to the incident were presented from three people who allegedly witnessed the altercation involving Nathaniel Pickett Jr., who was killed Nov. 19 near the El Rancho Motel in Barstow.

At Thursday's press conference, Brunner and Terrell claimed they recently became aware that a previously presented surveillance video of the incident was missing four to five seconds of footage.

This claim was bolstered by witness James Kennedy, who lived at the motel when the altercation between Pickett and the deputies occurred.

"I don't believe the video shows exactly what happened," Kennedy said. "I was there, and that's not what happened. There's a few seconds missing."

The Barstow Police Department investigated the deputy-involved shooting, "collecting security camera footage and belt recordings as evidence," sheriff's officials said following the May 17 press conference.

"The evidence collected was submitted with the completed report to the District Attorney for review," the department said.

DA spokesman Chris Lee said two weeks ago that the case was pending review.

The attorneys also claimed witnesses to the incident had been subjected to harassment, threats and intimidation by Sheriff's Department officials during the investigation.

Authorities previously said Pickett was seen hopping a fence and was generally uncooperative before he ran as a deputy attempted to handcuff him. A fight ensued and the deputy was hurt during the course of the scuffle that led to Pickett's death.

The 45-second surveillance video, revealed during a press conference May 17, shows Pickett darting away from the deputy through a corridor, then tripping and sliding to a stop. He appears to scoot away from the deputy, who attempts to subdue and handcuff him.

The attorneys showed a video during Thursday's conference from witness Amy Snyder, who was staying at a room in the motel directly across from where the incident occurred.

"I heard a rustling sound, then I heard (the deputy) say 'stop resisting,'" Snyder said. "But he wasn't resisting, fighting back or anything."

Snyder claimed she then heard the deputy threaten to stun Pickett with a taser gun before shooting him "within seconds."

"Everybody was telling the (deputy) that he lived there, he's not stable, just leave him alone and let him go home, and he just kept nagging at him for no reason at all," Snyder said. "He didn't have to shoot him a second time. It was instantaneous."

Private investigator Clifton Harris said Snyder was supposed to be present at the conference, but canceled at the last minute due to a "family emergency."

"It's my belief that she was afraid and made up a story," Harris said. "I'm sure that was just a ruse to get away from coming here today."

He claimed Snyder was told by investigators during her initial interview after the incident that "it would be a good idea for her to leave town."

"Since that time, she has indicated that she has picked up two cases where she feels she didn't do anything wrong," Harris said.

Terrell claimed witnesses were also intimidated into leaving shortly after the incident occurred.

"We're finding out that these witnesses were pretty much told if they didn't meet the theory of what the police were doing, they were not mentioned in the reports or told to get off the property," Terrell said.

A video from a second witness who was at the scene was shown, in which the man claimed the detective that questioned him told him to "get the (bleep) off the property" after the witness stated he saw deputies shoot Pickett.

"We have found, through our investigator, that this is a story that has been told and retold," Terrell said. "Instead of taking a statement, instead of getting the information down, you tell them to leave?"

The statement was reiterated by Harris.



James Kennedy watches a video recording of himself describing the death of Nathaniel Pickett Jr. during a press conference on Thursday. Attorneys who recently filed a federal complaint in the matter hosted the press conference. James Quigg, Daily Press

"I just don't understand why you would tell witnesses to get the 'F' off the property if you want to do a sincere investigation," Harris said.

Kennedy, who was present at the conference, spoke about what he witnessed during the altercation between Pickett and authorities. He claimed Pickett never did anything aggressive toward the deputies and questioned reports of a deputy suffering injuries at the scene.

"If those injuries happened, they must have happened elsewhere because I didn't see him get injured," Kennedy said. "(Pickett) didn't hit or push anyone."

Thursday's conference came two days after [Pickett's mother filed a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court](#). The complaint named Sheriff's Deputy Kyle Woods and the county as defendants and said Woods allegedly "unlawfully, improperly and maliciously shot" Pickett.

The suit seeks an unspecified amount in general and special damages, as well as civil fees and court costs.

Paola Baker may be reached at 760-955-5332 or PBaker@VVDailyPress.com. Follow her on Twitter at [@DP_PaolaBaker](#).

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/article/20160602/NEWS/160609936>

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FAMILY OF NATHANIEL PICKETT, BARSTOW MAN SHOT, KILLED BY DEPUTY, TO FILE LAWSUIT

Surveillance captured a deadly confrontation between Nathaniel Pickett and a San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputy outside a Barstow motel in November of 2015.

By [Leticia Juarez](#)

Thursday, June 02, 2016 09:00PM

BARSTOW, Calif. (KABC) --

The family of a Barstow man shot and killed by a San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputy announced they would file a wrongful death lawsuit against the sheriff's department.

Nathaniel Pickett, 29, was shot by a deputy following a struggle in November of 2015 outside a Barstow motel.

Pickett's family said he suffered from mental illness and called his shooting unjustified.

On Thursday during a press conference, the family showed surveillance video of the confrontation and revealed an eyewitness.

The family claimed investigators were attempting to intimidate witnesses.

"To a certain extent, I feel like they want to tell me to say what they want to say or say what they think they want to hear because I told them they are lying," James Kennedy, who stated he witnessed the shooting, said.

Kennedy said he witnessed what happened and tried to intervene, telling the deputy that Pickett had mental issues.

He said following the shooting, when investigators spoke to him, they didn't like what they heard.

"I'm not going to lie, you cannot tell me some police officer is going to tell me I was lying. I'm going to tell him he's lying because he didn't see it. I saw it with my eyes," Kennedy said.

At the time, the sheriff's department said the deputy was forced to shoot Pickett after he began striking the officer and refused to stop after resisting arrest.

The video shows Pickett tripping as he ran from the deputy. In the distance, it appeared to show the deputy on the ground struggling with him.

Attorneys for the family said there was more to the surveillance video that wasn't shown.

"In watching this video over and over we have discovered there are seconds missing. Seconds missing during the critical scenes where this officer and Mr. Pickett are actually engaged physically and where we believe Mr. Pickett was shot," attorney Sharon Brunner said.

As well as the wrongful death lawsuit, the family called on the FBI to investigate the sheriff's department for claims of witness intimidation.

The sheriff's department stated they could not comment on the pending litigation.

City council to talk about November election

Posted: Thursday, June 2, 2016 8:44 am

TWENTYNINE PALMS — The November election will be on the agenda when the city council meets in special session at 4 p.m. Monday, June 6, in council chambers at city hall, 6136 Adobe Road.

Councilmembers will discuss updates and changes within the county assessor's office with San Bernardino County Assessor-Recorder-Clerk Bob Dutton.

During the consent calender section of the meeting councilmembers will consider adoption of a resolution giving notice of a general municipal election in November and asking for consolidation of the municipal election with the statewide general election.

Seats held by councilmembers Cora Heiser and Joel Klink will be contested in the November election. Both are eligible to seek re-election.

Councilmembers will also consider approval of a contract for the city to provide animal shelter services to the county.

According to a staff report, the contract will see the city if paid \$5,000 to \$8,000 a year.

The report noted that the city already provided animal shelter services to the county by allowing county residents or county animal control officers to bring animals to the shelter since there is no nearby county shelter.

LOCAL / L.A. Now

Bill to expand Metro board is shelved in Sacramento



A bill in Sacramento would have added eight members to the Metro Board of Directors. Above, L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, center, and Metro officials at a celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Blue Line. (Genaro Molina / Los Angeles Times)

By **Laura J. Nelson**

JUNE 3, 2016, 5:00 AM

Sacramento lawmakers shelved a bill Thursday that would have added eight members to the agency that oversees Los Angeles County's buses and growing rail network, citing unresolved concerns over the legislation.

The bill, authored by Sen. **Tony Mendoza** (D-Artesia), would have added **Metropolitan Transportation Authority** representatives from Long Beach and other cities across the Southland.

Highlighting one of Metro's longest-running tensions, Mendoza said many of the county's 88 cities are underrepresented on the agency's board, leading to planning and funding decisions that favor Los Angeles at the expense of farther-flung cities.

“It’s so blatant, and so disappointing,” Mendoza said. He said he plans to iron out concerns with the bill, including those from Los Angeles, and try again later this year or next year.

But the bill has already raised concerns among local transportation officials who saw the proposal as an attempt by Sacramento to influence the planning process for Metro’s [ambitious \\$120-billion sales tax proposal](#), which is expected to appear on the November ballot.

“Unbalanced” representation on the agency’s board led to a proposal that ignores the needs of voters in smaller cities, whose support will be needed to reach the required two-thirds voter approval threshold, Mendoza said.

“

The southeast cities are very upset. We've waited decades for our turn, and now we have to wait again.

— Sen. Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia)

He and other elected officials from southeast Los Angeles County have been vocal about their displeasure with the plan, pointing out that the rail projects that would be built first are in the northern part of the county. A rail line down Van Nuys Boulevard and an extension of the Gold Line to Claremont are both slated to open before 2030.

But a long-discussed rail line from Union Station to Artesia would be built in two phases, nine years apart, with the full line beginning service in 2047. Under a previous sales tax that voters approved in 2008, the \$4-billion project received seed funding and a tentative opening date of 2027.

“The southeast cities are very upset,” Mendoza said. “We’ve waited decades for our turn, and now we have to wait again.”

In an April 15 letter to the Metro board obtained by The Times, Mendoza and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon said pushing the Artesia light-rail route to the back of the line is “unacceptable.”

“We want to support the new tax measure as our communities did before ... but our constituents need to know that MTA will keep its promise,” they wrote.

Metro director [Don Knabe](#) raised similar concerns at a recent board meeting, saying high-profile projects — including a rail tunnel through the Sepulveda Pass — had “leapfrogged” projects that had been scheduled to open earlier under Measure R.

Regardless of whether his bill passes later this year or next year, Mendoza said, he will campaign against Metro's ballot measure, and encourage other elected officials to do the same unless the agency bumps up the 2047 opening date.

"If this measure fails, great," Mendoza said. "We will go back to the drawing board, and we'll pass it in two more years."

Mendoza's bill had the support of Senate President Pro Tem Kevin De Leon (D-Los Angeles) and Sen. [Ricardo Lara](#) (D-Bell Gardens), both of whom represent areas where the Artesia line would run. Metro, the city of Los Angeles and the Board of Supervisors formally opposed it.

The Metro board is composed of the five county supervisors, L.A.'s mayor and his three appointees, and a representative from each of the county's four sub-regions. Los Angeles residents make up about 40% of the county population.

Mendoza's proposal would have added seats for the mayor of Long Beach, four more sub-regional representatives, one more Los Angeles vote, and two members appointed by Assembly speaker and the Senate Committee on Rules.

A board made up of 22 voting members is closer to the average number statewide, Mendoza said. Riverside County's transit board has 34 members, and San Bernardino County's has 20.

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Water quality report now available

The Helendale Community Services District announced this week that the annual Consumer Confidence Report is now available. It details the quality of drinking water provided to customers during 2015. The report is available online at www.helendalecsd.org/2015CCR.pdf. Reports are also available at the District Office, 26540 Vista Road, Suite B, in Helendale. Those who would like a copy of the CCR mailed to them should contact the office at 760-951-0006. Customers can contact Water Operations Manager Michael Simpson at 760-951-0006 for questions on the report or water quality.

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